

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., December 2, _____, 1871 .

The Superintendent, U. S. Mint,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

It is with alarm that I notice the increased orders for five cent pieces, as well as cents, and the diminished supply of the former. The Christmas trade will soon be upon us and the mint will be caught in its usual condition as to minor coins, although I had flattered myself that this would never occur again.

The public cannot understand why, with the immense facilities of the mint at Philadelphia, there should be so much trouble in getting change money in a desirable form.

Several senators and members of Congress have suggested to me the propriety of amending the law so that minor coins could be struck at the other mints. I have not yielded to that pressure, but I am not sure but what I shall feel compelled to make such recommendation to Congress if the future shows, as the past has done, the incapacity of your mint to meet this demand.

I would not suggest the propriety of paying drafts until they have been collected, but as nearly all the drafts sent you are on either Philadelphia or New York the delay in the former case should not be more than a day, and in the latter, not more than

three days.

I deem it important that you should take this matter in hand at once, and personally supervise the issue of five cent pieces. If the trouble is with the contractor see him at once and press upon him the importance of filling the demands of the mint more rapidly. If the trouble is in the coiner's department, every possible effort should be made, even ~~to~~ working over time if necessary, to catch up with the orders for minor coins before the Christmas holidays.

I consider it a reflection upon our administration of the mint service that the public should be delayed in their orders for necessary change money.

I must trust this matter to you as the executive officer in charge of the mint at Philadelphia, and I trust that you will recognize the importance of taking immediate and active measures to at once meet the demand.

Very respectfully,


Director.

Treasury Department,
Bureau of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.
December 2, 1891

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Philadelphia, Pa.

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E.O. Leech
Director.